Claims

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for the communication of message packets from a first node in a data processing system to a plurality of nodes in said data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first set of communication parameters, prior to message packet transmission time, in a communications adapter connected to said first node, said first set of communication parameters including an indication that a plurality of nodes is targeted for receipt of said message packet, said first set of communication parameters also including a destination identifier;

establishing a second set of communication parameters, prior to message transmission time in communication adapters connected to said plurality of nodes, said second set of communication parameters including an entry which maps said destination identifier to an address in memory at said plurality of nodes;

transmitting a message packet, with header information linking said packet to said first and second set of communication parameters, from said adapter connected to said plurality of nodes, using said first set of communication parameters; and

recognizing, at adapters connected to said respective ones of said plurality of nodes, which receive message packets from said adapter connected to said first node, that said message packet is targeted for receipt by a plurality of nodes, whereby data in said packet is transferred directly from memory locations in said first node directly to memory locations in memory at said plurality of nodes.